



SELECTED EVENTS - September to December 2006

Leipzig Consul Addresses Students, English Teachers in Southern Saxony



Consul Wenig (right) and student wearing Chemnitz Crusaders outfit

December 4, 2006. Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and the Information Resource Center (IRC) assistant participated in the second "America Day" at the city library in the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains) town of Annaberg-Buchholz. Wenig, who was joined by a representative of the Chemnitz Crusaders (American) football team, addressed two groups of students and English teachers from the district, focusing on sports in America. The IRC assistant talked about IRC services, distributed brochures and CD-Roms about the USA, and gave two presentation books to the library on U.S. society. The Consulate visitors were also welcomed by Annaberg-Buchholz Lord Mayor Barbara Klepsch, who attended one of the student programs.

Commercial Minister George Ruffner for Business Talks in Leipzig-Halle Region



On the stormy top of the boiler building. From left: Lippendorf power plant manager Joachim Kahlert; Bettina Kutsche, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig; George Ruffner; Mark Scheland, Consul General

December 4, 2006. The Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, George F. Ruffner, who arrived in Germany this fall, conducted his first business meetings in the consular district at the beginning of December. He was joined by Consul General Mark Scheland and Commercial Specialist Bettina Kutsche examine clean coal power-generation at the Lippendorf power plant in Boehlen, Saxony. The visit included discussions on energy efficiency procedures and a tour of the power plant, right up to the top of the boiler 152 meter (499 feet) high building. Mr. Ruffner also had the opportunity to meet management representatives of the regional lignite mining and energy concern Mibrag during the Saint Barbara's Day Reception in Halle celebrating the mining industry and the patron saint of miners.

Tenth Saxony-Anhalt "Investors Stammtisch" at Burg Wanzleben



Tenth Saxony-Anhalt "Investors Stammtisch" at Burg Wanzleben

November 28, 2006. The periodic gathering of representatives of U.S. subsidiary companies based in Saxony-Anhalt and the neighboring states of Saxony and Thuringia hosted by hit-music broadcaster Radio SAW, featured Consul General Mark Scheland and the Commercial Counselor from the Canadian Embassy, Christopher McLean, among the guest speakers. Mark Scheland briefed the audience on globalization trends and their consequences, as well as on tasks of the U.S. Commercial Service in Germany. About 80 businesspeople and politicians – among them Saxony-Anhalt's Economic Minister Dr. Rainer Haseloff and Transport and Construction Minister Dr. Karl-Heinz Daehre - also addressed the group. The U.S.-"Investorenstammtisch" was established by Radio SAW in 1999 to create a discussion forum between

U.S. investors and politicians in Saxony-Anhalt.

Thuringia Recognizes the Consular Corps and Military Liaisons



The Consular Corps at the State Chancery of Thuringia, Erfurt

November 20, 2006. Consul General Scheland joined diplomatic and consular colleagues and honorary consuls of nearly two dozen other countries in a day-long exploration of economic, cultural, and tourism development in the Free State of Thuringia. The state chancellery and Minister-President Dieter Althaus used the annual information day for the Consular Corps as an occasion to recognize as well the work of U.S. and British military liaison officials, who over several years have helped increase contacts and cooperation between the people of Thuringia and Allied military establishments. The Minister-President presented certificates of appreciation to current and former U.S. Forces Liaison Officers Reinhart Schumann, William Clements, and Anne Adams, and to U.S. Air Force Host Nation Advisor Wolfgang Motz. The event coincided with Consul General Scheland's election by his colleagues to the position of Doyen, or spokesman, of the Consular Corps accredited to Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia.

Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving



Parliamentary Deputy Gisela Kallenbach, Polish Consul General Ryszard Król, Sweden's Honorary Consul Rudolf von Sandersleben, and Thuringia's Protocol Chief Karl-Michael Danzer, enjoyed pumpkin pie and other American specialties of the season.

November 19, 2006. Over 60 guests from government, business, theater, opera and music education, and others gathered at the Consul General's residence Sunday, November 19, to enjoy a program of songs composed or arranged by 20th Century American composers. Soprano Nicole Simml from Wisconsin and pianist Amy Wegge, a native Minnesotan, performed works by Aaron Copland, Virgil Thompson, Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, Louise Talma and William Bolcom. The All-American program, drawing its theme broadly from the U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving, was a happy revelation to many from the Leipzig region, whose own musical tradition emphasizes J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, and the Schumanns. After the stirring recital the guests, including Markkleeberg Lord Mayor Dr. Bernd Klose and Mrs. Klose, County Executive (Landrätin) Petra Köpping and spouse, European

Learning from Nazi-Era Forced Laborers in Leipzig



Survivors of Nazi-era forced labor in Leipzig and their local hosts at the city's memorial to the victims. (Photo credit: City of Leipzig)

postwar Germany's compensation programs and their neglect of forced laborers, and the negotiations with private industry and governments leading to creation in 2000 of the German federal foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future" (Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft).

November 17, 2006. Six individuals from Eastern Europe, removed by force from their homelands during World War II and put to work in the Leipzig area or born here during their mothers' incarceration as forced laborers, accepted the City of Leipzig's invitation to visit the city for a week as honored guests. U.S. Consul General Mark Scheland joined the group in a panel discussion at Leipzig's "open university" (Volkshochschule) conducted for an audience of approximately 50 high and middle school students from Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium in Taucha, Mittelschule Mölkau, and other Leipzig-area schools. Consul General Scheland discussed the structure of the Nazi regime's use of slave and forced labor in parallel with its policy of extermination,

Consul General at USA and Canada Day at Leipzig Travel Agency



Consul General Mark Scheland (left) and Ute Sichtung (center) from the travel agency

November 16, 2006. Consul General Mark Scheland was the featured guest at a Q & A session at the Leipzig Karstadt travel agency. Augmenting the agency's resources, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig distributed tourism promotion material about the USA acquired from Commercial Service tourism experts in Frankfurt's Consulate General and from the Visit USA Committee Germany e.V. Consul General Scheland talked to interested Leipzig travellers while Consulate staff answered questions regarding passport requirements for the visa waiver program and other services of the Consulate.

American Voice at “Literary Autumn” in Jena and Leipzig



Dave King signs his book

November 16, 2006. Basically as an “encore” to a very successful first appearance at Leipzig Book Fair in the spring 2006, best-selling author Dave King – currently a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome – presented his first novel, “The Ha-Ha” to audiences in Jena on November 15, and Leipzig on November 16. The reading of his moving story on the costs of war and the infinite worth of human relationships, ended in both cities with a long and vivid discussion on writing, human imperfection and American society. Consul General Mark Scheland attended the King reading in Leipzig. In addition to university students and the general public, King also addressed a group of high school students, who mastered their first encounter with an American author by displaying a stunning command of English and a great understanding of literature.

Consul General and Leipzig Cultural Official Open America@Your Library Partnership



Mayor for Cultural Affairs Dr. Georg Girardet addresses the guests at Leipzig Municipal Library

November 14, 2006. Consul General Mark Scheland officially launched the America@your library partnership with the Leipzig Municipal Library, the 5th and final event of this kind in Leipzig's Consulate General district. The opening drew about 70 guests, including this year's Fulbrighters in the region, former participants of the International Visitor Program who travelled to the U.S., local high school students, and members of the general public. The Consul General presented a check for € 2,500 to the head of the library, Dr. Arne Ackermann. The program celebrating the new partnership also included a bilingual reading by Kjörstin Wenig, wife of the Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, and the head of the children's library, Ms. Gründig, to twenty elementary school kids, a discussion/Q&A by the Consul General with sixty 10th graders, and information on exchange programs.

In his speech, Mayor for Cultural Affairs, Dr. Georg Girardet, recalled his participation in the International Visitor Program in 1994, during which “I learned so much about the U.S. and which continues to have an impact to this very day.” Library Director Ackermann, in turn, lauded his library's “longstanding and excellent cooperation” with the Consulate.

United States Air Forces in Europe Band Perform in Apolda



From left: Mayor Rüdiger Eisenbrand, Apolda; Captain Matthew J. Seifert, Deputy Commander, Associate Conductor; Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig

November 12, 2006. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and consulate staffer Beate Renker attended a concert by the Chamber Winds Ensemble of the United States Air Forces in Europe Band. Consul Wenig delivered welcoming remarks to the crowd of ca. 70 listeners, including the mayor of Apolda Rüdiger Eisenbrand. Apolda has kept up a lively sister city relationship with Rapid City, SD, and is very active in the German-American cultural dialogue. Consulate General Leipzig organized this concert in cooperation with Apolda city authorities and the Sister City organization. The audience appreciated the concert and mixed freely with the musicians.

Magdeburgers Display Interest in U.S. Elections



From left: Prof. Crister Garrett, University of Leipzig; Consul General Mark Scheland, U. S. Consulate General; Uwe Küster, MdB; Prof. Erhard Forndran, University of Magdeburg

November 9, 2006. Consul General Mark Scheland participated in a public panel discussion hosted by the Saxony-Anhalt chapter of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation and by the German-American Dialogue Center. Along with Bundestag deputy Uwe Küster as moderator and two professors, one American, Prof. Crister Garrett, University of Leipzig, and one German, Prof. Erhard Forndran, University of Magdeburg, the Consul General explained to an audience of nearly 200 the structures of the U.S. legislative and electoral systems and the variety of offices and issues that were in play in the 2006 elections. Topics in the Q&A session ranged from social-ethical issues, such as abortion, stem cell research, non-traditional marriage, and the minimum wage, to the workings of the electoral college, redistricting, and factions within the two major parties.

Washington Policy Expert Gives Election Analysis Via Digital Video Conference (DVC)



From left: Rita Wallace, Information Specialist; Mark Wenig, Consul for Public Affairs. Rear: Mark Scheland, Consul General, U. S. Consulate General Leipzig

November 8, 2006. Terry Michael, director of the "Washington Center for Politics and Journalism," participated in a Digital Video Conference (DVC) with a diverse audience from the Leipzig community, including press representatives. As part of his presentation and in response to questions, Michael cautioned against expecting too much change too soon, and made the point that even though the Democrats now had the opportunity to effect change, there was no guarantee they would do it. He also looked at potential front runners for the 2008 presidential elections, and was never shy about putting forth his own personal analysis. The audience was so energized after the DVC concluded that some stayed on for over an hour at the table discussing Michael's analysis and the election results. The journalists from MDR Radio and TV praised the program for providing useful background information.

Saxony-Anhalt English Teachers Learn About U.S. Elections



Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Saxony-Anhalt English Teachers

November 7, 2006. On the U.S. Election Day, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig addressed 20 English teachers about the midterm elections. The event took place at the Magdeburg public library, Saxony-Anhalt's America@your library partner. The group was first welcomed by Ms. Beate Hörning, who oversees the library's partnership with the Consulate, in which she introduced the guests. Leipzig's Information Resource Center (IRC) director provided an overview on relevant election resources and handed out brochures and CD-ROMs about the U.S. Georg von der Gablentz of the Magdeburg-based German American Dialogue Center, and Ms. Katrin Risch, a former Consulate intern who will participate in the "National Model United Nations" program in New York, were also in attendance.

Consul Takes Part in Podium Discussion on German Foreign Policy



Consul Michael Rousek, one of four panelists in a Podium Discussion hosted by Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Zwickau

express their thanks for having the United States represented on the panel and prepared to field questions on foreign & security policy.

November 2, 2006. Consul Mike Rousek took part as one of four panelists in a Podium Discussion hosted by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Zwickau. The discussion was moderated by MdB Andreas Weigel, who fielded questions from some 60 local residents on the future of German foreign policy and engagement abroad. Other panelists included Major General Reinhard Kammerer, the Commander of the 13th Panzer Grenadier Division headquartered in Leipzig, whose unit is currently the lead for the German army's peacekeeping efforts in Afghanistan and the Balkans. Consul Rousek gave opening remarks and laid out America's view of German engagement abroad now and in the future. Participants also approached Mr. Rousek after the event to express their thanks for having the United States represented on the panel and prepared to field questions on foreign & security policy.

Consulate Cooperation with Chemnitz - Industrial Center and College Town



November 1, 2006. Consul General Mark Scheland visited the city of Chemnitz in Saxony and paid a call on Lord Mayor Barbara Ludwig. In their first meeting since Ms. Ludwig's assumption of office in late summer 2006, the Lord Mayor and Consul General reviewed the variety of the Consulate's cooperation with local institutions, reaching back several years, and discussed prospects for the future. The same day Consul General Scheland consulted with the faculty of the American Studies program at Chemnitz's Technical University.

Consul General Mark Scheland and Lord Mayor Barbara Ludwig

Kindergarten in Saxony-Anhalt in Preparation for Globalization



From left: Kjärstin Wenig, wife of Consul Wenig; Mark Wenig, Consul for Public Affairs; Michael Czupalla, Landrat of Delitzsch county; Mrs. Altmann, head of Zerschnitz kindergarten; Melanie Haberland, Förderverein of "The little hoodlums"

November 1, 2006. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, his wife Kjärstin and Leipzig's Information Resource Center (IRC) director visited a day care center called "The little hoodlums" (Die kleinen Strolche) in the small western Saxon village of Zschoernitz to meet kindergarten staff and an American English teacher, Brielle Confer, from North Carolina, started last August on a one-year experimental program to provide bilingual education to some 69 pre-school age children from Delitzsch county. Consul Wenig presented the kindergarten director with English language children's books and announced a grant for the acquisition of English language teaching materials, while the IRC director provided brochures and 'About the USA' CD-ROMs. Also attending were Delitzsch county executive Michael Czupalla, the town's mayor, representatives of the county's Department of Youth and Social Affairs, as well as the initiators of this experimental project.

Erfurt High School Students Learn About U.S. Society and Politics



Monika Waldheim, Director of Erfurt Public Library, addresses students

October 19, 2006. Two groups of 11th grade high school students from Erfurt Sports Gymnasium came to the city branch library at the Gymnasium to attend a presentation and Q&A session conducted by Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig. Twenty students, accompanied by principal Mr. Böttcher, his deputy and three English teachers, were welcomed by Mrs. Waldheim, Director of the Erfurt public library, which is also an America@your library partner in the Leipzig consular district. Mrs. Waldheim introduced the group to this new partnership, and Consul Wenig then did a Powerpoint presentation on Alaska, including music, and took questions on American life and politics. The director of the Information Resource Center (IRC), U.S. Consulate General Leipzig, provided a brief overview of IRC resources and Consulate programs, and provided brochures and the CD-ROM, "About the USA."

Ambassador Timken Attends Opening of Holocaust Exhibit in Dresden



From left: Federal Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble; Fred S. Zeidman, Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr.; Joel M. Geiderman, Vice-Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; Sue Timken

October 11, 2006. Ambassador Timken participated in the opening of "Deadly Medicine," an exhibit about racial policies under the Nazis, which began an eight-month run at Dresden's Hygiene Museum. The exhibit venue is significant, as some of the museum's scholars in the 1930s were among those who embraced Eugenics. The exhibit is on loan from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. In addition to the Ambassador, speakers included Saxony Minister-President Georg Milbradt and Federal Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble. In attendance among the almost 1000 guests were Fred Zeidman, Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and Sara J. Bloomfield, Director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. This exhibit marks the first time the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has ever lent one of its exhibits to an overseas museum. Invited guest attendance at the opening was expected to be 450 but approached 1000 -- clear evidence of the great interest in the subject. Hygiene Museum officials expect a great deal of interest over the

next months, especially from school groups.

Sue Timken Visits Dresden Salvation Army Headquarters



Mrs. Sue Timken (left); Judy Garrington and Major Jim Garrington

October 11, 2006. Mrs. Sue Timken, wife of Ambassador Timken, paid a visit to the Salvation Army headquarters in Dresden, where she participated in the distribution of lunches to about 60 homeless people. She met with the director, Major Jim Garrington, who provided a briefing on the group's operations in the Dresden area and throughout eastern Germany. Mrs. Timken received a good understanding of the nature of the homeless problem in Dresden and other eastern cities, and how the Salvation Army raises funds in Germany. Salvation Army officials also appreciated her thoughts and advice on fund raising.

U.S. Vice Consul Spoke on the Occasion of German Reunification



U.S. Vice Consul Mike Rousek (left) spoke to the guests on the eve of the commemoration program of the German Unification at the Höbach civic center (Photo: P. Tischer)

October 2, 2006. On the occasion of German Reunification Day, the regional chapter of the Junge Union (youth organization of the Christian Democratic Union – the CDU) organized a program entitled, "Against the Oblivion of an Inhuman Border." About 100 people took part in the ceremonies, which began with a silent protest march to the cemetery chapel in the town of Hönbach. One of the keynote speakers at this event was Michael Rousek, Vice Consul of the U.S. Consulate General Leipzig. He pointed out that the United States and Germany are partners and good friends, and emphasized the continuing close relationship between the two countries. In this context, Rousek also mentioned the good relations existing between the state of Thuringia and the U.S. Rousek also expressed appreciation for efforts to set up what had been lost between 1948 and 1989, and praised the current openness of the former border region. But Rousek made no secret of the fact that transatlantic

controversies still exist. Other speakers were Sonneberg Mayor Sibylle Abel, Beate Meissner, Member of the State Parliament of Thuringia, and the Bavarian Secretary of State, Jürgen W. Heike. They forcefully stated that the past must not be forgotten.

Opening of America@your library Partnership in Görlitz



From left: John Koenig, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Berlin; Dr. Birgit Dippe, ESO Görlitz; Consul General Mark Scheland, U. S. Consulate General Leipzig; Elke Junker, Eso Görlitz

September 29, 2006. John Koenig, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Berlin, Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul for Public Affairs, Mark Wenig, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig, attended the official opening of the America@your library partnership at the Europe-Library in the city of Görlitz. The event was attended by a number of notables, including the Mayor for Cultural Affairs, Ulf Großmann, as well as students of local high schools and the Euro language school (ESO). At the conclusion of his remarks, John Koenig presented a check for 2,500 Euros to the head of the library, Dr. Birgit Dippe, who will also participate in an "International Visitor Program" to the U.S. in 2007. The America@your library partnership was celebrated with a traditional "American Day," which had earlier included joint lectures by the Deputy Chief of Mission and the Consul General on a variety of U.S. issues. The sixty high school students from Görlitz used the opportunity to ask good questions and had a lively discussion with the American officers. Consul

Wenig's wife, Kjarstin, and consulate staff member Geertje Huendorf conducted bilingual readings of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" for two separate classes involving forty children. At the end of the day, Koenig, Scheland, and Wenig and his wife met with Görlitz Lord Mayor Joachim Paulick.

Bautzen High-School Students Celebrate Louis Armstrong with "American Day"



Library director Margitta Wünsche, Bautzen public library, and Consul for Public Affairs, Mark Wenig, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig

September 26, 2006. Sixty high school students from the local Schiller and Sorbs Gymnasium, along with Bautzen residents, attended the "finissage" of the paper show, "Louis Armstrong," which had been on display at the Bautzen public library for the month of September. A three-person band from Philadelphia performed at the event, and afterwards Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig talked about Armstrong, as well as consular services, engaging the audience in a discussion on a variety of U.S.- related issues. Consul Wenig also officially presented U.S. books to the library. In the afternoon, Wenig lead a discussion with 40 students from high- and middle schools at Bautzen's youth center, the "Steinhaus." The "American Day" wrapped up in the evening with a concert for youth at the Steinhaus. Earlier in the day, Wenig and his wife also toured the infamous "Bautzen 2" DDR prison.

World Literacy Day and Children's Day Celebrated in Leipzig



School kids at Leipzig public library. Rear: Consul Mark Wenig and his wife

September 20, 2006. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig highlighted the UN-designated World Literacy Day and Children's Day for 40 fourth grade children from Lessing Primary School, which took place at the Leipzig public library. After a lively Q&A session with the Consul in German and English, Wenig's wife Kjärstin and the children's librarian conducted a bilingual reading from Astrid Lindgren's "Children's Day in Bullerbü," followed by a quiz of common German and American vocabulary. Various objects from Lindgren's Sweden were also displayed.

Consul for Public Affairs in Gera for "American Night" and Tour of 2007 Federal Garden Show site



Ramon Miller of sister city Gera (left) and Consul Mark Wenig

September 16, 2006. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and his wife Kjärstin were in Gera to attend the city's "American Night" festivities, also attended by representatives of Gera's U.S. sister city, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Consul Wenig delivered a greeting as about 50 attendees in the evening watched a short presentation about Fort Wayne and enjoyed a band from there. Prior to the event, Mark Wenig joined a walk on the grounds of next year's "Bundesgartenschau" (Federal Garden Show) which will open on April 27. Lord Mayor Dr. Norbert Vornehm was present to greet the walkers. Gera's active sister city committee is ready to receive visitors from all of its sister cities at the Federal Garden Show which will feature a display by Fort Wayne. Gera expects some two million visitors next year.

Celebrating Steuben and the Magdeburg Dialogue Center



Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr., (center) at Steuben Conference in Magdeburg

this point by both mentioning in their speeches the democratic principles that both countries consider non-negotiable.

September 15, 2006. Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr., was a key speaker at the 4th Steuben Conference staged by the German-American Dialogue Center in Magdeburg, which also celebrated its 6th anniversary. The conference under the auspices of Karsten Voigt, coordinator for German-American relations in the Foreign Office, drew about 120 members of the Dialogue Center, who also followed a panel discussion about transatlantic relations in the wake of September 11, 2001, and an anniversary speech by former U.S. Ambassador John Kornblum. On Sunday, September 17, Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland represented the Consulate at a wreath laying in Magdeburg in honor of Steuben's birthday. Volksstimme Magdeburg gave prominent billing to Ambassador Timken's speech under the headline: "U.S. and Germany stand side by side." Ambassador Timken and Karsten Voigt underscored

9/11 Remembered



Consul General Mark Scheland at the church service

September 11, 2006. . About 300 children from the Lutheran School Center in Leipzig started their school day on September 11 with a church service in memory of the 3000 victims of the terrorist attacks in the U.S. five years ago. At the service, Consul General Mark Scheland recounted not only his personal experiences of that day, but also explained the many ways in which Americans have been trying to deal with this tragic event and its consequences. In the evening, Consul General Scheland was the guest of honor at the opening of the exhibit, "New York Images Sounds Emotions" in Torgau, which – as a juxtaposition to the terrorist attacks - is celebrating the vibrancy of New York city life in 150 photographs. In Erfurt and Wittenberg, visiting U.S. firefighters commemorated the events with German counterparts. The Leipzig church service was among the many memorial events worldwide featured in the *Leipziger Volkszeitung's* front-page reporting that day.